

Boston Light: A Historical Perspective

By Sally Snowman, Ph.D. & James G. Thompson

Authors Snowman and Thompson have created a big, meaty book on our country's first light station. The volume shows every indication that the subject was well researched and carefully thought out. The book is divided into five sections, with several chapters in each.

Part I covers the history of the station and recounts the colonial period and the need for a lighthouse on Little Brewster Island in Boston Harbor. The history of the station and its two towers in the period 1716 to 1789 is discussed in Chapter 2. The next chapter outlines the history from 1790 to 1852 when the newly created Lighthouse Board took charge. The Board's tenure from 1852 to 1910 is the subject of Chapter 4. This is followed by the Bureau of Lighthouses era, which, in turn, is followed by the Coast Guard's stewardship. The Boston Light Station's history is nicely chronicled in the chapters of Part I and is illustrated with drawings, photographs and historical excerpts.

Part II discusses the preservation of the island, technical aspects of the equipment and life on the island. Many color photographs illustrate Part II, including pictures and a floor plan of the dwelling.

Part III contains a time-line of all the major events relative to the venerable lighthouse. It is a concise summary of what's found in the rest of the book.

Part IV relates the duties of a lighthouse keeper, flora on Little Brewster Island and lists all the men who were keepers of this station. By the way, both authors have served as Coast Guard keepers at the Boston Light Station.

Part V contains an impressive list of resources, bibliographical notes, references, a glossary and index.

This tome is a no-nonsense book, packed with information and an outstanding overview of our first light station. This impressive work on the Boston Light Station belongs in the library of every lighthouse enthusiast.

Soft cover, 8 1/2 by 11 inches, 291 pages, numerous black & white and color photos, as well as drawings. Available through the Keeper's Locker for \$36 plus shipping and handling.

Lighthouses and Life Saving Along the Massachusetts Coast

By James Claflin

We recently received a copy of a delightful new book of 19th century images of lighthouses, lightships and life saving stations along the Massachusetts coast.

The book was fashioned by James Claflin, a dealer in objects and archival items relating to the Lighthouse Service, Life Saving Service and the Coast Guard. From his holdings, he has selected some wonderful images from the 19th century that give the 'flavor of the bean' of what life was like in the good ol' days on light stations, life boat stations and lightships. Many of the images are rare and have not been published.

The book is divided into the following chapters: The Early Years, The North Shore, Boston Bay, Cape Cod, The Lightships, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard and Buzzards Bay (which includes the Elizabeth Islands). This is

basically a photo book with some lengthy captions relating some history and/or explaining some interesting aspect of the photo.

Lighthouses and Life Saving Along the Massachusetts Coast is a wonderful book and one that you'll peruse over and over, discovering some new element to a photograph each time.

Soft cover, 6 by 9 inches, 128 pages with 177 photos, maps and drawings. Available through the Keeper's Locker for \$18.99 plus shipping and handling.

Grand Traverse Lighthouse

By the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Foundation

The folks that operate the 1852 Grand Traverse Lighthouse, in the far northern reaches of Michigan's Lower Peninsula, have put together a charming booklet about their lighthouse. The 32 page booklet has been beautifully designed and is packed with historic and contemporary photos. It clearly illustrates that the lighthouse has been lovingly restored and cleverly interpreted. The publication provides an overall history of the light station. The Grand Traverse Lighthouse appears to be a wonderful station to visit, but if you don't plan on being in that 'neck of the woods', this booklet is the next best thing to being there.

Soft cover, 7" x 10", 32 pages, black & white and color photos. You may order this booklet from the Grand Traverse Lighthouse Foundation, P.O. Box 43, Northport, MI 49670. \$5.95 plus \$1.50 shipping and handling.

Nineteenth-Century Lights: Historic Images of American Lighthouses

By Candace Clifford and Mary Louise Clifford

Nineteenth-Century Lights is one of the most scholarly and refreshing books on the subject to pop out of the lighthouse book presses. Primarily a picture book, it is also filled with excellent and well-researched historical information, thankfully omitting the ghost stories and other tid-bits of fiction that seem to transfer from one lighthouse book to another like a virus.

Following a brief Introduction, Chapter I sets the scene for *Nineteenth-Century Lights*. From this brief but solid starting point, the ladies Clifford touch on three of the few remaining 18th-century lighthouses before embarking on a chronological journey through the 19th-

century. The book moves always forward; 1802, 1804, 1812. Occasionally a few lighthouses constructed in the same year are covered, but basically the lighthouses visited are chronological. The Cliffords nicely weave the lighthouses from one geographic area to another; New England, Mid-Atlantic, back to New England, over to the Great Lakes, back to the South, and after 1855, out to the West Coast, then back to New England. Some of the text on a particular lighthouse is short, others longer. Some text includes comments from keepers, inspectors or others involved with lighthouse construction and care.

Interspersed throughout the 304-page book are very interesting sidebars: Instructions to Keepers - 1835, fog signals, buoy tenders, depots and comparison charts showing the number of lighthouses in various eras.

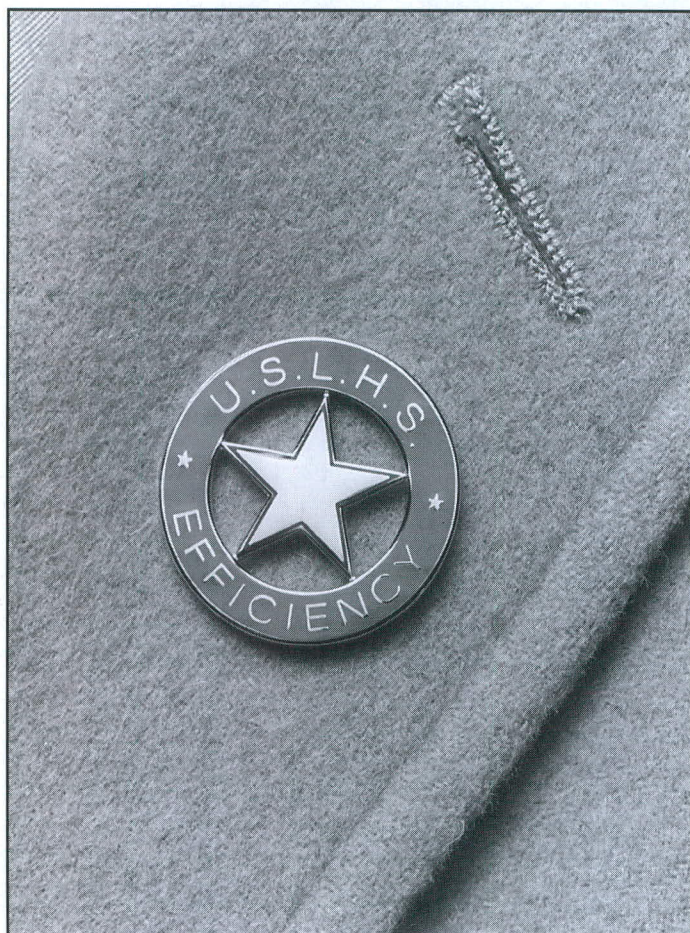
The book is filled with interesting and factual information, whether reading the text for each lighthouse or the sidebars. Nothing is too technical; but enough

information is included on the various aspects of our country's lighthouses to give you the 'flavor of the bean.'

As the Cliffords bring you forward through the 19th-century, bobbing and weaving from one geographical area to another, they do so in four chapters: Lighthouses in a New Nation, Lighthouses Under the Fifth Auditor, The U.S. Light-House Board Improves the System and the U.S. Light-House Board Achieves Its Goals. A Conclusion, Appendix and detailed End Notes wraps up this successful book.

And, of course, the book is loaded with historical, and mostly, very clear photos and diagrams. You'll want to buy this book for the photos alone, but you'll also find it an easy, intelligent read, which will increase your awareness of the subject.

Soft cover, 8 1/2" by 11", 304 pages, hundreds of black & white photos and drawings and only \$24.95 (soft cover) or \$34.95 (hard cover) through the Keeper's Locker, plus shipping and handling.



U.S. Lighthouse Service Efficiency Pin

The 1912 report of the Bureau of Lighthouses to Congress stated, in part, "To promote efficiency and friendly rivalry among lighthouse keepers, a system of efficiency stars and pennants has been established. Keepers who have been commended for efficiency at each quarterly inspection during the year are entitled to wear the inspector's star for the next year, and those who receive the inspector's star for three successive years will be entitled to wear the Commissioner's star..."

As a Society exclusive (and one of the annual gifts to our District Inspector members) we have had an exact reproduction of the inspector's star created. It consists of red enamel on brass and measures 1 1/8 inches in diameter. If you feel efficient, you may wear one of these on your hat or lapel by sending \$4.95 to the Keeper's Locker (price includes shipping and handling).

The Commissioner's star is blue enamel on silver metal. If there is sufficient interest in this pin we will have them manufactured.